



2015 Spring Hiking Series

Presented by the
**Town of Fountain Hills McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission &
Sonoran Conservancy of Fountain Hills**
General Information on Guided Hikes



Open to all ages

Participants must sign a waiver and release of all claims which will be available at least 15 minutes before each hike on-site. Be sure to check our website www.scfh.org for updates and changes.

Pre-register with Carol Ayres, FHSC at 480-837-8290 or email: quail16440@gmail.com

There is a \$2 fee into the McDowell Mountain Regional Park and hikes beginning from Golden Eagle Trailhead require the \$2 fee for the Regional Park. Hikes beginning at the end of Eagle Ridge Drive must start and finish with stewards as we cross private land.

Hikes normally last about 3 hours depending on the hike.

Balanced Rock: A four-mile easy hike in the north Scottsdale preserve passing among grand and stately saguaros as well as striking granite boulder formations. Beautiful scenery all around. Meet at Library Parking Lot.

New Year - New Trail: This hike will be 8 miles/difficult. Estimated 1500 foot elevation gain. One-way hike shuttle required. We start the year with a one-way hike using a brand new trail named for Chet Andrews and Roy Kinsey. This trail connects the Scottsdale and Fountain Hills preserves. We start with a climb up the Sunrise Trail, take the Andrew-Kinsey Trail to our preserve. We then follow the Sonoran Trail and Dixie Mine Trail to the Golden Eagle Trailhead. We will leave as many vehicles as we can at the Golden Eagle Trailhead and carpool to the Sunrise Trailhead in Scottsdale. Meet at Golden Eagle Trailhead

Dixie Mine: This hike will be 5 miles/moderate to exhilarating. Enjoy learning about the mine and its surroundings (including a petroglyph panel). This is a great hike! Meet at Golden Eagle Trailhead.

Archaic Hunter Gatherer Hike: This hike is 2 miles/easy to moderate. This hike originates from the Lost Dog Trailhead and travels the Lost Dog and Ringtail Trail Loop with a short diversion to the Anasazi Spur. The hike replicates a day in the life of an archaic hunting and gathering party. Hike time: 3 hours. Meet at Library Parking Lot.

Garden Valley Loop Superstitions: This hike is 5.5 miles/moderate to difficult 660 gain elevation. This is a very special and popular hike into the Superstition wilderness. We hike on a rocky trail to the site of an Indian trash mound, then cross Garden Valley - a flat area which might even be muddy and then descend thru some fascinating rock formations to work our way back to the trailhead. Hiking shoes or boots necessary. Hiking poles recommended. One hour drive to trailhead with section on dirt road.

Butcher Jones: This hike is 5.5 miles/moderate 200 foot elevation gain. Tonto National Forest day or annual pass required for each vehicle. This hike begins at the Butcher Jones picnic area, winds along the edge of Saguaro Lake to a fabulous view of Four Peaks. Trail fairly level except for a climb into and out of a wash. Meet at Library Parking Lot.

| Hike | Day | Date | Time |
|----------------------------------|-----|--------|-----------|
| Balanced Rock | Wed | Jan 7 | 8:30 a.m. |
| New Year - New Trail | Sa | Jan 10 | 8 a.m. |
| Dixie Mine | Sa | Jan 17 | 9:00 a.m. |
| Archaic Hunter Gatherer Hike | Sa | Jan 24 | 8:30 a.m. |
| Garden Valley Loop Superstitions | Wed | Jan 28 | 8:00 a.m. |
| Butcher Jones | Sa | Feb 14 | 8:30 a.m. |



What to Bring: 1-2 liter of water, snack and sturdy hiking shoes are required for all hikes



2015 Spring Hiking Series

Presented by the
**Town of Fountain Hills McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission &
Sonoran Conservancy of Fountain Hills**
General Information on Guided Hikes



Open to all ages

Participants must sign a waiver and release of all claims which will be available at least 15 minutes before each hike on-site. Be sure to check our website www.scfh.org for updates and changes.

Pre-register with Carol Ayres, FHSC at 480-837-8290 or email: quail16440@gmail.com

There is a \$2 fee into the McDowell Mountain Regional Park and hikes beginning from Golden Eagle Trailhead require the \$2 fee for the Regional Park. Hikes beginning at the end of Eagle Ridge Drive must start and finish with stewards as we cross private land.

Hikes normally last about 3 hours depending on the hike.

Lifecycle of a Saguaro: This hike is 4 miles/easy to moderate 200 feet elevation gain. Native only to the Sonoran Desert, these giant cacti are a sign to see. Hiking near Granite Mountain, we will follow the growth of a saguaro from seed to skeleton, and view multi-armed, old saguaros. Allow 4 hours. Meet at Library Parking Lot.

Tom Thumb to Dixie Mine: This hike is 7.5 miles/difficult to exhilarating 1500 foot elevation gain. One-way hike shuttle required. A challenging hike beginning with the steep climb up the Tom's Thumb Trail followed by the very steep descent on the East End Trail. From there, we head in the McDowell Mountain Park and return to Fountain Hills from the Golden Eagle Trailhead. Please arrange to be picked up at the end of the hike. Meet at the Library Parking Lot.

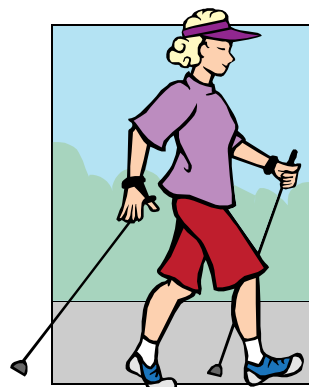
Birding: This hike is 2-3 miles/moderate. Kathe Anderson will share her knowledge on birding in the preserve. Bring your binoculars. Meet at Golden Eagle Trailhead.

Pass Mountain Shortcut: This hike is 6 miles/moderate. This beautiful hike takes a short cut following a long sandy wash to the back side of Pass Mountain. We have a great view of surrounding mountains. And loads of wildflowers after winter rains. We hike to a small cave and return. Meet at Library Parking Lot.

Photography and Wild Flowers: This hike is 5 miles/moderate. Marianne Jensen will have tips to take beautiful pictures in our Sonoran Desert and preserve. Marianne has a flora photo guide to Wildflowers that is excellent. Meet at Golden Eagle Trailhead.

Pine Creek Loop - Ballantine Trailhead: This hike is 2.5 miles/easy to moderate 500 gain elevation. This is a clockwise loop starting at the Ballantine Trailhead off Highway 87. Excellent views on this hike. Meet at Library Parking Lot.

| Hike | Day | Date | Time |
|--|-----|--------|-----------|
| Lifecycle of a Saguaro | Tu | Feb 24 | 8:00 a.m. |
| Tom Thumb to Dixie Mine | Sa | Feb 28 | 8:00 a.m. |
| Birding | Sa | Mar 7 | 7:30 a.m. |
| Pass Mountain Shortcut | Sa | Mar 11 | 8:00 a.m. |
| Photography and Wild Flowers | Sa | Mar 21 | 8:00 a.m. |
| Pine Creek Loop - Ballantine Trailhead | Wed | Mar 25 | 8:00 a.m. |



What to Bring: 1-2 liter of water, snack and sturdy hiking shoes are required for all hikes